

your amendment now? I am sorry, I have an amendment from Senator Hall. Excuse me, Senator.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: (Mike off) Senator Hall's amendment. I think what I would rather do, though, is, since it is an amendment to the bill, I would like to offer it on Select File. What do you think? It is easier to handle on Select File, probably, given the short...given the few people that we have here today. So since...

PRESIDENT: Did you want to talk about the bill?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I would just as soon talk about the bill.

PRESIDENT: Unless someone is authorized to handle it for Senator Hall, Senator, just a minute. Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I would prefer, Lieutenant Governor, that since Senator Hall is not here and it is his amendment, it is an amendment to the bill, rather than committee amendments, I would prefer that he take it up on Select File.

PRESIDENT: All right, then we will go to the bill, itself, Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, I want to thank you 33 others for being here. It is a travesty to have 15 members gone as we work LB 474, and, obviously, with 15 members gone, it means that I dare only have 9 negative votes on this bill, otherwise the bill will fail to advance. So I would ask each of you to reach to the bottom of your hearts and help move LB 474 because I have a very high burden with so many folk gone. You have on your desk a little chart that I have passed out. The Council on State Governments in the State Government newsletter of January 1988, or 1987, discussed state minimum wages laws, and in the back on the second page of it, you will see the chart that deals with state minimum wage laws, and you will note that there have been a number of states that have adopted the federal minimum wage as a state minimum wage, but Nebraska is not one of those. Nebraska's minimum wage is \$1.60 an hour, period. What I have proposed to do in LB 474 is to increase the state minimum wage from \$1.60 an hour to \$3.35 an hour, which is the federal minimum wage. Now you might ask me who would be covered by this. Well, at this point, the federal minimum wage law covers those employers that have gross